statement of U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Government took up the matter with the US Government and sought a clarification regarding the comments made by the US Ambassador to Pakistan on Kashmir.

(b) & (c) Conveying its response to our Embassy at Washington, the US Government reiterated its position on Kashmir and also issued a press advisory in the matter. Subsequently in a written statement to the US Congress, the US Government stated that it regarded the plebiscite mechanism outlined in the UN Resolutions as overtaken by the Shimla Agreement.

Malicious propaganda regarding Kashmir

1401. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a malicious propaganda regarding Kashmir is going on in U.S.A. these days;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to contradict the above propaganda; and

(c) what has been the effect of the malicious propaganda in U.S.A. on the mind of American citizens?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have taken several steps to project the factual position on Kashmir in order to counter the hostile propaganda. These steps include regular and intensive consultation with US Government officials, Senators and Congressmen, the media, the academic community, the Indian community and other interested parties.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to counter this propaganda have resulted in greater appreciation of the situation in Kashmir among Americans belonging to the groups mentioned in (b) above.

Indians residing in the U.S.A.

1402. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians residing in the U.S.A.; and

(b) what are their professional and educational background?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Estimated number of Indian citizens residing in the U.S.A. as on 1st October, 1989 is 7.5 lakhs.

(b) They are from several walks of life, including engineers, doctors, businessmen, white collar job holders etc. A detailed breakup according to professional and educational background is not available.

Deportation of Srilankan Tamil Militants from India

1403. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to deport all Srilankan Tamil militants from India; and